



The trip to the battlefields of First and Second Bull Run this coming October 27-28 should be something special—and there’s still room on the bus for you to sign-up or bring along a spouse or friend. The latest flier with itinerary, hotel and all other pertinent information can be found on our website at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/annual_fieldtrip.html.

On another note, you’ll find this mentioned in the meeting minutes but we received a gracious letter from the Civil War Trust for our donation of \$500 towards the preservation of 161 acres at Tom’s Brook. I’ve attached (or inserted) a copy of that letter for your viewing.

On MONDAY, August 27, the Roundtable welcomes one of our own, William Cottrell. Bill will present *“Lincoln’s Position on Slavery—A Work In Progress”*. Abraham Lincoln’s views on slavery evolved and changed over time. Bill will initially focus on the years 1854 and 1858, when Lincoln became fully engaged in the full-scale slavery debate taking place in the country. Then, Bill’s discussion will shift to the war years and show how Lincoln’s legislative agenda reflected his evolving beliefs on how to end American slavery.

Bill has been a student of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War era for over 40 years and is the leading docent for the Lincoln exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum. Bill is a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a long-time member of the MRRT, and a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State University,

MRRT would like to thank Steven Ramold, PhD, for his excellent presentation, “Discipline and the Union Army”. Steve’s framework for the talk was four fold: 1- why did Union soldiers commit infractions; 2- what sort were they; 3- did they feel justified in doing so; and 4- what was the Army establishment’s response.

Discipline problems prevalent in the Union Army were primarily among the volunteer troops and to a much lesser degree with the professional soldiers of the Regular Army units. At the most simplistic, the matter of discipline was to get the soldiers to obey their commanders as well as camp and battlefield rules (Articles of War). And the issue of what precisely the definitive rules were, and the discipline imposed for breaking them, was far from cast in iron. In fact, the Army displayed great flexibility in its efforts to maintain good military order.



So why did soldiers not obey all the rules? Steve laid out several contributing factors. Possibly the principal reason was the ‘hardening’ of the men as most for the first time were away from home and thrust into a continuum of environments, from the extreme peril of combat to the ‘forced’ regimentation of Army life. The issue of morality became looser over time and the men more accepting of things that would have been utterly unacceptable at home. Other contributing factors included boredom (e.g., leading to drinking and gambling), youth as the average soldier was 19 years of age, not getting paid (e.g., soldiers ‘foraging’ to meet personal needs), class distinctions (i.e., the clash of Victorian morality espoused by officers versus the Jacksonian democracy embraced by the troops), and sometimes simply because the individual purposely chose to do so.

As to the types of crimes, desertion was by far the leading issue with 1 out of 9 soldiers taking an unauthorized leave of absence at some period of their enlistment. But perhaps the most serious infractions from a military view point were those considered anti-authority crimes, such as insubordination, mutiny, and an assault on superior officers. This category of infraction strikes at the very chord of good military order and represented about 18% of the total. There is also a large category of infractions that came from violating often times quite subjective regimental rules that were largely the definition of the ruling commander and could vary widely from unit to unit. Theft and violence also played their roles.



Did the soldiers feel justified? In large part, yes. Much of this derives from the basic concept they had of themselves as a ‘citizen soldier’. Just because they were in the Army, most felt they hadn’t necessarily subordinated their rights as citizens to the Army or its leaders. This is further exacerbated by the muddled ambiguities of what was or wasn’t acceptable; e.g., the distinction between pillaging and foraging.

Punishment, for the most parts, came in the form of hard labor (e.g., digging latrines or standing extra hours on guard duty), some form of physical discomfort or social embarrassment (e.g., carrying a log or standing on a barrel), or fines. Court Martial’s were also a way to address serious infractions but was time consuming and interestingly enough, very liberal to the rights of the accused.

So, did Steve accomplish his objective? I believe all in attendance would agree that the answer is an unqualified yes. Steve presented us with a most interesting and unique presentation and we look forward to a return visit.

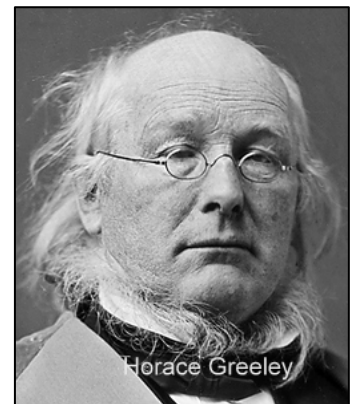
QUIZ: All Questions Pertain to Abraham Lincoln.

1. What were the two main “pillars” of President Lincoln’s initial emancipation plan that he abandoned in the face of fierce opposition?
2. By 1865 what percentage of the Union Army would be composed of United States Colored Troops? Choose 10%, 20%, or 30%.
3. On April 11, 1865, Lincoln’s final speech from the White House called for what two things would be given to former slaves who were educated or who had served honorably in the military? Also, who was in the crowd listening to the speech?
4. On July 22, 1862 President Lincoln presented his Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet for the first time. Which member of the Cabinet gave him advice that the President agreed with and what was the advice?
5. When did President Lincoln become fully engaged in the anti-slavery debate? The choices are 1854, 1858, or 1861.

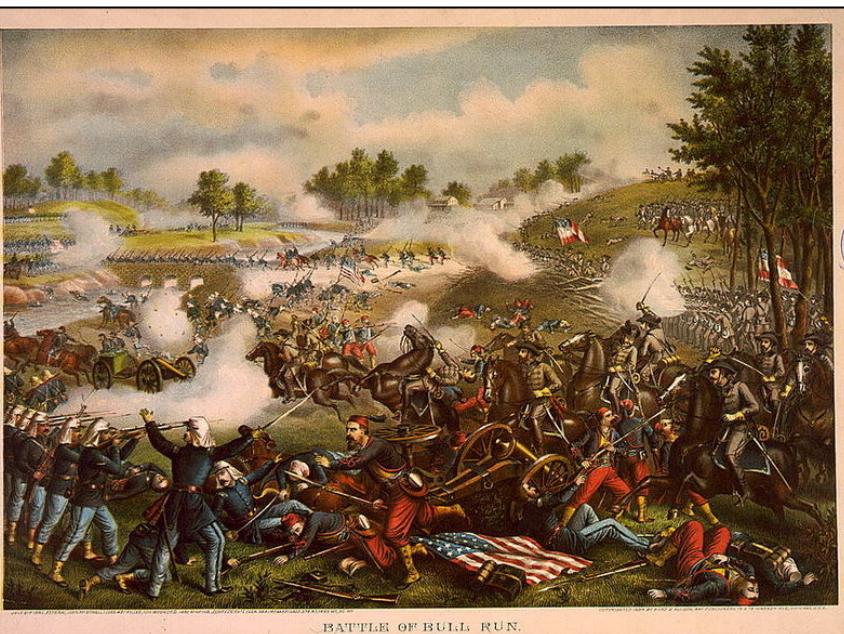
MRRT Minutes for July 23, 2012: President Larry Hathcock made the **Call to Order** at 6:30 pm. Approximately 50 people were present for the speaker’s presentation. **Preservation Report:** Joe Epstein reported that the Civil War Trust thanked us for our \$500 donation to the Tom’s Brook battlefield preservation effort. **2012 Trip Report:** The information for our October trip to First and Second Bull Run is unchanged and available on our website. So far, 32 people are on-board and 2 others signed-up for dinner only. There is still space available for interested people—including interested members from other roundtables. **Items of Interest:** Jerry Maxwell’s book *The Perfect Lion: The Life and Death of Confederate Artillerist John Pelham* continues to garner favorable reviews. It just recently won the prestigious Douglas Southall Freeman award for books on Southern history since Colonial times. The Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society’s Annual Ice Cream Social and Civil War Event will be held on Saturday, July 28, 2012 at the Wisner Home in Pontiac—MRRT members are encouraged to attend. Ron Cleveland’s cannon and the 22nd and 102nd Colored Infantry are the highlights of the event. Gene Kramer report that the 5th Regimental Band (he is a long-time member) is going to Gettysburg on August 18th. MRRT members are welcomed to take the bus trip with the band—musical ability not required! Speak with Gene if you’re interested. The Birmingham Eccentric recently provided the MRRT with front page publicity. This week the Loomis Battery will be participating in an artillery shooting contests at Camp Grayling. **Program Report:** Jim Burroughs is working on speakers for the first half of 2013. Dr. Rosentreter from Michigan State will speak on “Michigan at Gettysburg” one week before the 150th anniversary of the battle. **Secretary’s Report:** The June 25, 2012 report was accepted.



Civil War Sesquicentennial (August 1862): **3 Aug:** Gen Halleck orders McClellan (under rigorous protest) to move his army from Harrison Landing to a position in better defense of the Capital. **5 Aug:** CSS Gen Breckenridge attacks union forces under Gen Thomas Williams at Baton Rouge, LO. Gen Williams is killed but the confederates are repelled. **8 Aug:** Secretary of War Stanton orders that anyone attempting to evade military service be subject to arrest. **9 Aug:** The Second Bull Run Campaign (2BR) starts as an attack by Gen Banks fails against Stonewall’s Confederates at Cedar Mountain. CSS Gen Ambrose Hill is the Cedar Mountain victor. **13 Aug:** (2BR) Union and Confederate forces clash near Orange Court House as Gen Lee’s forces advance on Gordonsville. **16 Aug:** McClellan moves northward to reinforce Gen Pope’s forces near Alexandria. **17 Aug:** A six-week uprising begins by the Sioux in Minnesota over living conditions on their reservation. Over 300 whites are killed but the uprising is finally ended by Gen Sibley on September 23rd. **18 Aug:** Gen Pope moves his army North across the Rappahannock River while waiting to meet-up with McClellan’s forces. **19 Aug:** New York Tribune editor Horace Greeley criticizes the Lincoln administration over slavery in an article titled “The Prayer of Twenty Million”. In it he says “*all attempts to put down the Rebellion and at the same time uphold its inciting cause are preposterous and futile.*” **21 Aug:** (2BR) Over 200 Confederates are killed and 2000 captured while trying to cross the Rappahannock. **22 Aug:** Lincoln responds to Greeley’s article by writing “*If I could save the Union without freeing any slaves I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it.*” **26 Aug:** The combined actions of US Gen Curtis and Commodore Dave results in the capture of the Confederate “Fair Play” on the Yazoo River yielding a large cache of weapons. **26-30 Aug:** (2BR) The conflict comes to a head as Union forces flee over Bull Run on 30 Aug as Gen Longstreet crushes Pope’s left flank. **31 Aug:** Following his defeat, Gen Pope consolidates his forces near Centreville, VA. For further information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.

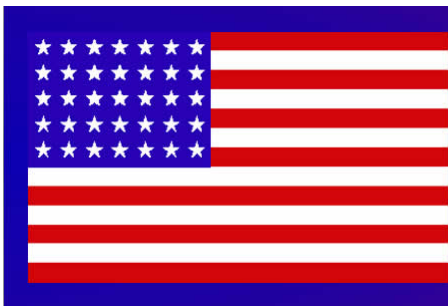


Civil War Essentials: This month’s article is principally a primer for our upcoming trip to the battlefields of First and Second Bull Run (alternatively, depending upon perspective, First or Second Manassas). The information below is primarily from the CWSAC Battle Summaries at www.cr.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/bycampgn.htm. You can also find an excellent write-up on Wikipedia to include battle maps: www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Battle_of_Bull_Run.



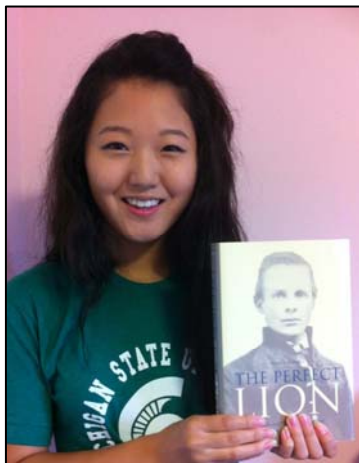
The principal commanders at First Bull were BG Irvin McDowell for the Union and BG P.G.T. Beauregard and BG Joseph Johnston for the Confederates. The Union forces numbered approximately 28,450 troops and suffered an estimated 2,950 casualties; the Confederate had approximately 32,230 troops and incurred estimated casualties of 1,750. The battle resulted in a Confederate victory. A brief summary follows:

This was the first major land battle of the armies in Virginia. It was a battle McDowell was reluctant to push given the readiness of his troops but under political pressure to put a quick end to the rebellion, he was urged to

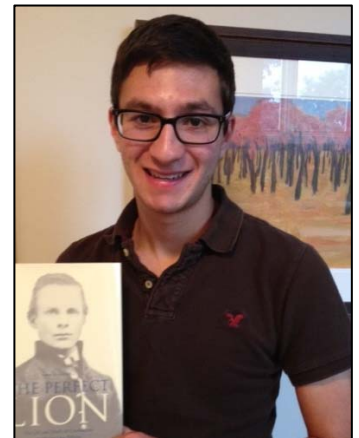


action. Famously Abraham Lincoln is quoted as saying "You are green, it is true, but they are green also; you are all green alike." Reluctantly or not, on July 16, 1861, the untried Union army under McDowell marched from Washington against the Confederate army, which was drawn up behind Bull Run beyond Centreville. On July 21st, McDowell crossed at Sudley Ford and attacked the Confederate left flank on Matthews Hill. Fighting raged throughout the day as Confederate forces were driven back to Henry Hill. Late in the afternoon, Confederate reinforcements (one brigade arriving by rail from the Shenandoah Valley) extended and broke the Union right flank. The exhausted Federal troop's unorganized retreat rapidly turns into a rout. Although victorious, Confederate forces were too disorganized to pursue. Thomas J. Jackson earned the nom de guerre "Stonewall" while his troops occupied critical terrain atop Henry Hill when Gen Barnard Bee (soon thereafter killed) remarked "Look at Jackson standing there like a stone wall!" By July 22nd, the shattered Union army reached the safety of Washington. This battle convinced the Lincoln administration that the war would be a long and costly affair. McDowell was relieved of command of the Union army and replaced by MG George McClellan, who set about reorganizing and training the troops.

The Jerry Maxwell History Award, North Farmington High School: Ron Cleveland, along with History Chair Jim Demko, presented the Jerry Maxwell History Award to two very deserving youths;



Daye "Esther" Kim and Sam Gringlas. As you may remember, the MRRT pledged a contribution of \$200 towards the recognition of the outstanding male and female history student from North Farmington High School. This sum was supplemented by Carlene Maxwell and her family (\$400) along with an additional \$100 from Don Keen, a friend of Jerry's and now retired school principal. Ron and Larry Jackson also donated a copy of Jerry's book, *The Perfect Lion: The Life and Death of Confederate Artillerist John Pelham*, to each award recipient. The MRRT wishes Daye and Sam much success as they enter the next exciting phase of their academic life.



QUIZ Answers:

1. Compensating slave owners for freeing their slaves and colonizing former slaves in another part of the world—Liberia on the African coast was one suggestion.
2. 10%.
3. President Lincoln suggested that educated or military veteran former slaves be given U.S. citizenship and voting rights. John Wilkes Booth became very angry listening to this speech – just three days before he shot Lincoln on April 14, 1865.
4. William Seward, Secretary of State, strongly suggested that President Lincoln wait to release the Proclamation until after a Union Army victory on the battlefield. The Proclamation was signed on January 1, 1863, after the "victory" at the Battle of Antietam.
5. 1854.

Be There—Monday, August 27, to hear Bill Cottrell present "Lincoln's Position on Slavery—A Work In Progress". The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 pm, Farmington Public Library. Also, check our website at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/.